

What is claimed is:

1. A coupler for coupling sections of a paddle together and angularly positioning the sections relative to each other about a paddle axis, the coupler comprising:
5 a first component mountable to a first section of the paddle and including a receptacle; and
a second component mountable to a second section of the paddle and including a protrusion operable to extend into the receptacle of the first component to position the first component relative to the second
10 component and to prevent the first component from turning relative to the second component, wherein the second component is movable relative to the first component along the paddle axis to turn and reposition the first component relative to the second component.
2. The coupler of claim 1 wherein the first component includes more than one
15 receptacle each operable to receive the protrusion of the second component to position the first component in different angular positions relative to the second component.
3. The coupler of claim 1 wherein the second component includes more than one
20 protrusion each operable to extend into the receptacle of the first component to position the first component in different angular positions relative to the second component.
4. The coupler of claim 1 wherein:
the first component includes more than one receptacle, and
the second component includes more than one protrusion each operable to
25 extend into each receptacle to position the first component relative to the second component in different angular positions.

5. The coupler of claim 1 wherein the second component is movable relative to the first component along the paddle axis to withdraw the protrusion of the second component from the receptacle of the first component.
6. The coupler of claim 1 wherein:
 - 5 the protrusion includes a rectangular key, and
 - the receptacle includes a keyway sized to receive the key.
7. The coupler of claim 1 wherein:
 - the second component includes 24 protrusions, each including a rectangular key, and
 - 10 the first component includes 24 receptacles, each including a keyway sized to receive each key.
8. The coupler of claim 7 wherein:
 - each protrusion is equally, angularly spaced around a perimeter of the second component, and
 - 15 each receptacle receives a protrusion when the first component is positioned relative to the second component.
9. The coupler of claim 1 further comprising a retainer operable to releasably lock the position of the first component relative to the second component.
10. The coupler of claim 9 wherein:
 - 20 the second component includes a lip, and
 - the retainer includes a hook operable to releasably lock the lip with the first component.
11. The coupler of claim 10 wherein the retainer includes a spring to bias the hook toward the lip when the protrusion of the second component extends into the receptacle of the first component.
- 25 12. A paddle comprising:

a first section;

a second section angularly positionable relative to the first section about a paddle axis; and

a coupler operable to couple the first section with the second section,
5 wherein the coupler comprises:

a first component included in the first section of the paddle and
including a receptacle, and

a second component included in the second section of the paddle
and including a protrusion operable to extend into the receptacle
10 of the first component to position the second section relative to
the first section and to prevent the second section from turning
relative to the first section, wherein the second component is
movable relative to the first component along the paddle axis to
turn and reposition the second section relative to the first
15 section.

13. The paddle of claim 12 wherein the first component is mounted to the first
section, and the second component is mounted to the second section.

14. The paddle of claim 12 wherein the paddle is a double-bladed paddle and the
first section includes a first blade and the second section includes a second
20 blade.

15. The paddle of claim 12 wherein the first section includes a handle and the
second section includes a blade.

16. The paddle of claim 12 wherein:

the first section includes a body, and

25 the first component of the coupler is releasably mounted to the body.

17. The paddle of claim 16 wherein a pin releasably mounts the first component to
the body.

18. The paddle of claim 12 wherein:
the second component of the coupler includes 24 protrusions, each
equally, angularly spaced around a perimeter and each including a
rectangular key; and
5 the first component of the coupler includes 24 receptacles, each including
a keyway sized to receive each key to position the second component
relative to the first component in 24 different angular positions.
19. The paddle of claim 12 wherein the coupler includes a retainer operable to
releasably couple the first component with the second component to lock the
10 position of the first component relative to the second component.
20. A method for coupling sections of a paddle together and positioning the
sections relative to each other about a paddle axis, the method comprising:
inserting a protrusion of a second component of a coupler of a paddle into
a receptacle of a first component of the coupler to position the first
15 component relative to the second component and to prevent the first
component from turning relative to the second component; and
locking the position of the first component relative to the second
component with a retainer.
21. The method of claim 20 wherein inserting the protrusion into the receptacle
20 includes inserting a rectangular key of the second component into a keyway of
the first component.
22. The method of claim 20 wherein locking the position of the first component
relative to the second component includes retaining a lip of the second
component with a hook of the retainer.
- 25 23. The method of claim 20 further comprising:
moving the first component relative to the second component along the
paddle axis to withdraw the protrusion from the receptacle; and

turning the first component relative to the second component about the
paddle axis to reposition the first component relative to the second
component.

5